

What is claimed is:

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- 1 An electronic camera comprising:
- an image-capturing device that stores a signal  
electrical charge achieved by performing photoelectric  
5 conversion on a subject image projected on a  
photosensitive surface and reads out the signal  
electrical charge to generate an image signal; and  
a photographing preparation device that executes  
photographing preparations for photoelectric conversion  
10 performed at said image-capturing device, wherein  
said photographic preparation device executes at  
least some of said photographing preparations for  
photographing a next frame during an electrical charge  
read period at said image-capturing device.
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2. An electronic camera according to claim 1, further  
comprising:
- at least one of a shutter mechanism, a mirror  
mechanism, an aperture mechanism, a focal adjustment  
20 device and a photometric device, wherein  
said photographing preparations for the next frame  
include at least one of a shutter charge performed by  
said shutter mechanism, a mirror down performed by said  
mirror mechanism, a mirror up performed by said mirror  
25 mechanism, aperture control performed by said aperture

mechanism, focal adjustment performed by said focal adjustment device and photometry performed by said photometric device, to enable photographing of the next frame.

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3. An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a shutter mechanism, a mirror mechanism and an aperture mechanism, wherein

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said photographing preparation device completes a shutter charge performed by said shutter mechanism and a mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and starts a mirror up performed by said mirror mechanism and aperture control performed by said aperture mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame during an electrical charge read period at said image-capturing device.

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4. An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

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a mirror mechanism, a focal adjustment device and a photometric device, wherein

said photographing preparation device completes a mirror down performed by said mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and then implements

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focal adjustment by said focal adjustment device and photometry by said photometric device, during an electrical charge read period at said image-capturing device.

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5. An electronic camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a continuous shooting command device that issues a command to perform continuous shooting, wherein

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said photographic preparation device executes at least some of the photographing preparations for the next frame during the electrical charge read period at said image-capturing device while a command to perform continuous shooting issued by said continuous shooting command device is in effect.

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6. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein

said photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that drives the photographing preparation

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and implements rotational drive of said drive motor during the electrical charge read period at said image-capturing device.

7. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein

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said photographing preparation device includes a

drive motor that sequentially drives a plurality of  
photographing preparations in correspondence to a  
rotating angle and implements rotational drive of said  
drive motor during the electrical charge read period at  
5 said image-capturing device.

8. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein  
operation timing is set in advance at least at  
either said photographing preparation device or said  
10 image-capturing device to ensure that the electrical  
charge read period does not overlap a period over which  
a subject image of the next frame is projected onto said  
photosensitive surface.

9. An electronic camera according to claim 1, wherein  
said photographing preparation device performs  
detection of a completion of a signal electrical charge  
read operation performed by said image-capturing device  
and following the detection, projects a subject image  
20 onto said photosensitive surface.

10. An electronic camera according to claim 1, further  
comprising:

a time count device that measures at least a part  
25 of a length of time required for the photographing

preparation, wherein

at least either said photographing preparation  
device or said image-capturing device adjusts operation  
timing to ensure that a signal electrical charge read  
5 period does not overlap a period over which a subject  
image for the next frame is projected onto said  
photosensitive surface based upon results of count of  
the length of required time performed by said time count  
device.

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